

CLAIMS

1. A method for printing remotely generated interactive print jobs in a system including

5 a workstation provided with a processor unit, a display screen, and operating means,

a printer provided with a control unit, an operator control panel, a display and a local storage device for storing print files for printing, and

a digital network to which the workstation and the printer are connected,

10 wherein an interactive print job is for deferred processing, in which a print file corresponding to the interactive print job is stored in the local storage device of the printer upon reception and not printed, and is, upon an operator command, presented on the display of the operator control panel of the printer for selection and, upon a second operator command, then printed,

15 the method including:

sending a print job to the printer and storing the print job as an interactive type in the local storage device of the printer;

listing one or more interactive print jobs currently stored in the local storage device of the printer on the workstation display screen; and

20 enabling an operator, through the use of the workstation operating means, to select one of the listed interactive print jobs and to give a command for printing the selected job.

2. The method according to claim 1,

25 wherein an interactive print job for which a print command has been given via the workstation operating means is added to a local printer queue of said printer.

3. The method according to claim 1,

30 in which a print job may alternatively be of an automatic type in contrast to the interactive type, an automatic print job being for processing by the printer without an operator command to do so, the automatic print job being queued in a local printer queue of the printer,

wherein said method also includes:

listing one or more automatic print jobs currently waiting in the local printer

queue on the workstation display screen, and

enabling an operator, through the use of the workstation operating means, to select one of the listed automatic print jobs and to convert the selected automatic print job into an interactive print job.

5 4. The method according to claim 1,
wherein print jobs of a user are handled exclusively by the user .

5. The method according to claim 4,
also including informing the user of the status of print jobs belonging to the user .

10 6. The method according to claim 5,
further including informing the user of the finishing of print jobs belonging to the user by an alert message on the workstation display screen.

7. The method of claim 1,
said method being implemented using internet technology, including a webserver communicating with the printer and a web browser in the workstation.

15 8. The method of claim 7,
further comprising providing said webserver with a web page generator for dynamically generating a web page presenting selectable references to interactive print jobs belonging to a user and a print command function for commanding printing of at least one of said interactive print jobs.

20 9. The method according to claim 1,
in which a print job may alternatively be of an automatic type in contrast to the interactive type, an automatic print job being for processing by the printer without an operator command to do so, the automatic print job being queued in a local printer queue of the printer,

25 wherein said method also includes automatically converting, in a selectable printer mode, all automatic print jobs into interactive print jobs upon reception at the printer.

10. A printing system for printing remotely generated interactive print jobs,

the system comprising:

a workstation provided with a processor unit, a display screen, and operating means,

a printer provided with a control unit, an operator control panel, a display and a
5 local storage device for storing print files for printing,

a digital network to which the workstation and the printer are connected,

wherein an interactive print job for deferred processing, in which a print file
corresponding to the interactive print job is stored in the local storage device of the
printer upon reception and not printed, and is, upon an operator command, presented on
10 the display of the operator control panel of the printer for selection and, upon a second
operator command, then printed,

said workstation processor unit including a print control module for communication
with the printer, for sending print jobs to the printer and receiving information from the
printer,

15 wherein said print control module is also operable for listing interactive print jobs
currently stored in the local storage device of the printer on the workstation display
screen, and for enabling an operator, through the use of the workstation operating
means, to select a shown interactive print job and to give a command for printing the
selected job.

20 11. The system according to claim 10,

wherein the printer control unit, upon reception from the workstation of a signal
designating a locally stored interactive print job and specifying a print command, adds
the designated interactive print job, to a local printer queue of the printer.

12. The system according to claim 10,

25 in which a print job may alternatively be of an automatic type in contrast to the
interactive type, an automatic print job being for processing by the printer without an
operator command to do so, the automatic print job being queued in a local printer
queue of the printer,

wherein said print control module in the workstation processor unit further is
30 operable for:

listing on the workstation display screen automatic print jobs currently waiting
in the local printer queue of the printer, and

enabling an operator, through the use of the workstation operating means, to select one of the listed automatic print jobs and to convert the selected automatic print job into an interactive print job.

13. The system according to claim 10,
5 wherein said print control module in the workstation is personalised for a specific user such that handling of personal print jobs of said specific user is exclusively available to said specific user.

14. The system according to claim 13,
10 wherein said print control module in the workstation is also for informing the user of the status of print jobs belong to the user.

15. The system according to claim 14,
wherein said print control module in the workstation is also for informing the user of the finishing of print jobs belonging to the user by an alert message on the workstation display screen.

16. The system according to claim 10,
15 including a plurality of printers, and wherein the print control module in the workstation is adapted to communicate with all of the printers and to provide the stated print control functionality for all of the printers.

17. The system according to claim 10,
20 in which a print job may alternatively be of an automatic type in contrast to the interactive type, an automatic print job being for processing by the printer without an operator command to do so, the automatic print job being queued in a local printer queue,

25 wherein the printer has a selectable mode in which it automatically turns all automatic print jobs are automatically converted into interactive print jobs upon reception.

18. A printing system for printing remotely generated interactive print jobs, the system comprising:

a workstation provided with a processor unit, a display screen and operating means, and including a web browser,

a printer provided with a control unit, an operator control panel, a display and a local storage device for storing print files for printing,

5 a web server having a print control module for communication with the printer and for receiving information from the printer,

a digital network to which at least the workstation and the web server are connected,

10 wherein an interactive print job is for deferred processing, in which a print file corresponding to the interactive print job is stored in the local storage device of the printer upon reception and not printed, and is, upon an operator command, presented on the display of the operator control panel of the printer for selection and, upon a second operator command, then printed,

15 wherein said web server is adapted for dynamically generating web pages for transmission to a browser in a workstation, said web pages listing a user's interactive print jobs currently stored in the local storage device of the printer, and including functionality for enabling a user to select a shown interactive print job and to give a command for printing the selected job.

19. The system of claim 18,
20 wherein said web server is adapted for sending a signal designating a locally stored interactive print job and specifying a print command to the printer, and

wherein the printer control unit, upon reception of said signal adds the designated interactive print job to a local printer queue of the printer.

20. The system of claim 18,
25 wherein the web server is a separate unit in the system, said web server being connected to the printer or to a plurality of printers through the network.

21. The system of claim 18,
wherein the web server is located in the printer and directly connected to the printer control unit.

30 22. A computer program, having a computer-readable form, for use in a printing

system for printing remotely generated interactive print jobs, said system including:

a workstation provided with a processor unit, a display screen, and operating means,

5 a printer provided with a control unit, an operator control panel, a display and a local storage device for storing print files for printing, and

a digital network to which the workstation and the printer are connected;

an interactive print job being for deferred processing, in which a print file corresponding to the interactive print job is stored in the local storage device of the printer upon reception and not printed, and is, upon an operator command, presented on
10 the display of the operator control panel of the printer for selection and, upon a second operator command, then printed,

said computer program being adapted for running in said workstation, and for communication with the printer including sending print jobs to the printer,

said program is also being adapted for listing one or more interactive print jobs
15 currently stored in the local storage device of the printer on the workstation display screen, and for enabling an operator, through the use of the workstation operating means, to select a shown interactive print job and to give a command for printing the selected job.

23. The computer program according to claim 22,

20 in which a print job may alternatively be of an automatic type in contrast to the interactive type, an automatic print job being processed by the printer without an operator command to do so, the automatic print job being queued in a local printer queue,

wherein said program is also adapted for

25 listing one or more automatic print jobs currently waiting in the local printer queue on the workstation display screen, and

enabling an operator, through the use of the workstation operating means, to select one or more of the listed automatic print jobs and to convert the selected automatic print job into an interactive print job.

30 24. The computer program according to claim 22,

wherein said program is personalised for a specific user such that handling of personal print jobs of said specific user is exclusively available to said specific user.

25. The computer program according to claim 24,
wherein said program is also adapted for informing the user of the status of print
jobs belong to the user .

5 26. The computer program according to claim 25,
wherein said program is also adapted to inform the user of the finishing of print
jobs belonging to the user by an alert message on the workstation display screen.

27. A computer program element according to claim 22, wherein said computer
program has a computer-readable form because of being embodied on a computer -
10 readable medium.